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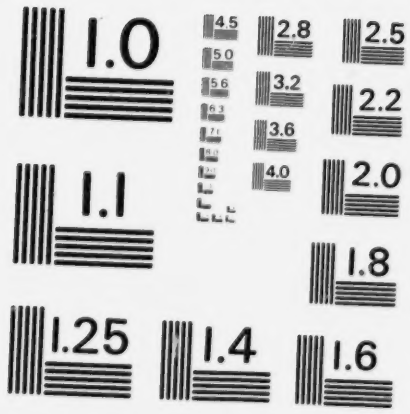

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By-Goossen, Irvy W.

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This preprimer has been developed by the Northern Arizona Supplementary Education Center in response to a renewed interest on the part of the Navaho people in learning to read their own language. A brief description of Navaho vowels, vowel length, tones, and consonants, prefaces the Navaho material. All the letters of the Navaho alphabet are introduced, being presented first in words containing contrasting sounds, and then in the context of simple sentences. The words containing the sounds being practiced are vocabulary items basic to Navaho family life, and are illustrated by simple black and white drawings to stimulate word recognition. A page-indexed Navaho/English glossary of approximately 130 lexical items is appended. (AMM)

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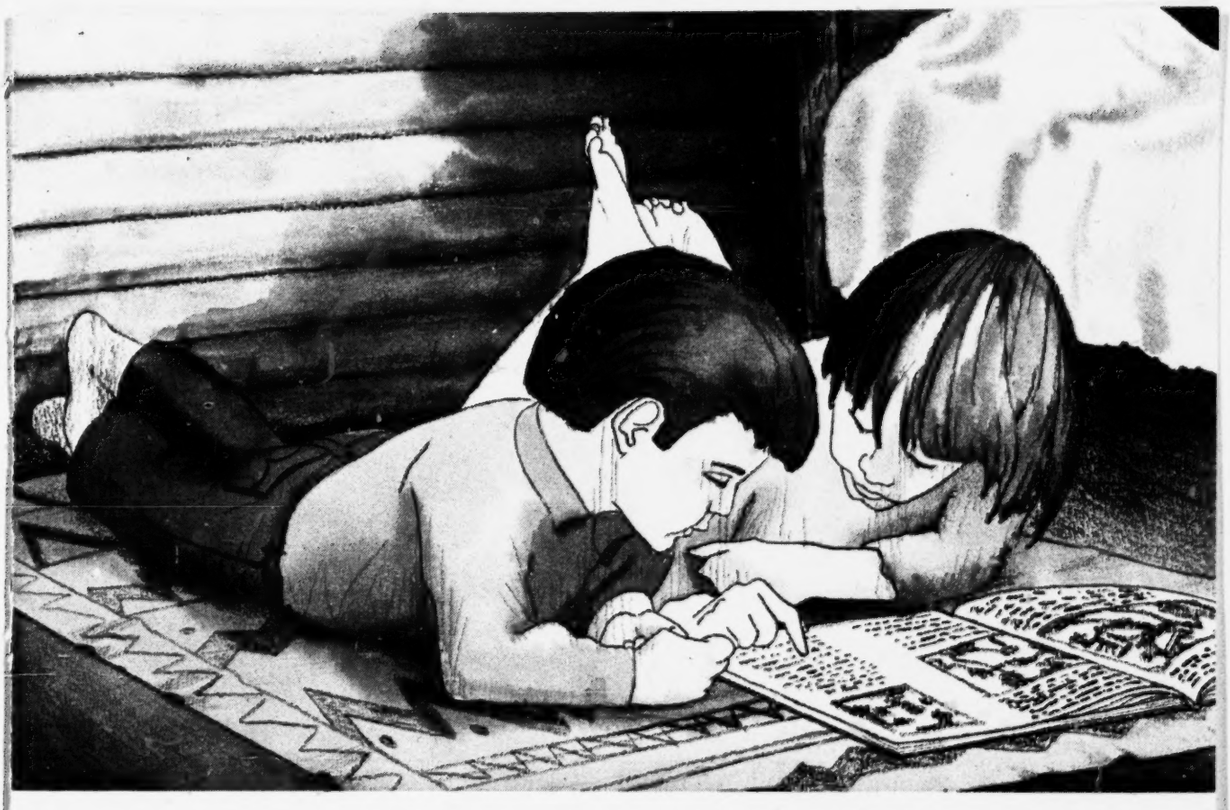
Let's Read Navajo

Preprimer

AL 001 654

by Irvy W. Goossen



Haa'ísha' Diné Bizaad Deiídíiltah

Let's Read Navajo Preprimer

by Irvy W. Goossen

illustrated by dan harshberger
and harry walls

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creating a climate for change

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PREFACE

This preprimer has been developed because of a renewed interest on the part of the Navajo people in learning to read their own language. The book is primarily printed for them, but non-Navajos may find it helpful in their study of the language.

A number of teachers on the reservation have found that Navajo students, not only learn to read better in English, but are also more highly motivated to study English when they find that the marks on paper make sense in both languages.

All the letters of the alphabet are introduced in the course of the preprimer. Capital letters have not been used except in proper names because older people find them too difficult at first. Children however would be able to recognize them very soon since they use them in school.

HOW TO USE THE LESSONS

People who have taught the reading of the language to Navajo students have found the pocket wall chart very useful. They have usually made their own letters, some with diacritics, to make up a large number of syllables. Since the language is constructed of mono-syllables, a large number of words can soon be made from a relatively few syllable cards.

Each group will have its own problems. More attention should be given to the difficult parts. Often students find difficulty in distinguishing between the two letters, b and d. Diacritics also cause some trouble. Ditto sheets with exercises to give the students practice are helpful. Word and syllable insertion exercises are also good. Copying the lesson pages has proved very helpful, especially to older students who have had little practice in writing.

THE NAVAJO ALPHABET

VOWELS

1. There are basically four vowels in the Navajo alphabet. The vowels are as follows, the first example being a Navajo word; the last, the closest approximation in an English word:

a	gad - juniper	art
e	e'e'aah - west	met
i	sis - belt	sit
o	hosh - cactus	note

2. Vowels may be either long or short in duration, the long vowels being indicated by a doubling of the letter. Actually, there are three regular vowel lengths, a short, a long and an extra long. The extra long occurs regularly in syllables closed by a stop consonant, usually /d/ or /'/ (glottal stop). The length does not affect the quality of the vowel except that /ii/ is always pronounced as /i/ in machine.

sis - belt	the vowel is short
siziiz - my belt	the second vowel is long

3. Vowels with hooks under them are nasalized. To nasalize, some of the breath passes through the nose in producing the sound.

tsinaabąąs - wagon	ńaadą́ą́' - corn
bizęęs - his warts	háádę́ę́' - from where
áshįįh - salt	shilį́į́' - my horse
sǫ' - star	dlǫ́ǫ́' - prairie dog

4. When there is a tone mark on a letter, raise your voice in pitch on that syllable. Say the first word of the examples given below, and then the one across from it, after hearing a Navajo say them.

ni - you	ní - he says
azee'- medicine	azéé' - mouth
nilį́ - he is	nílį́ - you are
doo - not	dóó - and

Notice the difference in the meanings of the words in the two columns. The tone alone indicates the difference.

5. The diphthongs are as follows: ai; aai; ao; aoo; ei; eii; oi; ooi.

ai hai	- winter	something like kite
ei éí	- that one	day
oi deesdoi	- it is warm	buoy

6. When only the first element of a vowel or a diphthong has a mark above it, the tone is falling. When the last element is marked, the tone is rising.

bilasáana	- apple	deídíiltah	- we will read it
dóola	- bull	łitsxooí	- orange

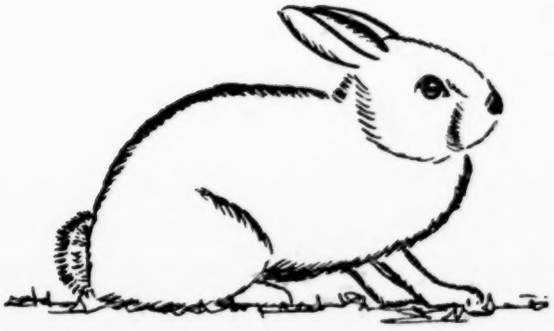
CONSONANTS

7. /'/ This is the most common consonantal sound in Navajo. It is called a glottal stop and sounds like the break between the two elements of the English expression "oh, oh." The difference between "Johnny yearns" and "Johnny earns" is that the latter has a glottal closure between the two words.

e'e'aah	- west	a'áán	- a hole

8. Following are the rest of the consonants and their English equivalents, as nearly as they can be given.

b	bá́áh	bread	like p in spot
ch	chizh	firewood	like ch in church
ch'	ch'ah	hat	----------
d	dibé	sheep	like t in stop
dl	dlǫ́ǫ́'	prairie dog	like dl in paddling
dz	dził	mountain	like dz in adze
g	gah	rabbit	like k in sky
gh	hooghan	hogan	----------
h	háadi	where	----------
hw	bił hweeshne'	I told him	like wh in when
j	jádí	antelope	like j in jug
k	ké	shoe	like k in kitten
k'	k'ad	now	----------
kw	kwe'é	right here	like qu in quick
l	lájish	glove	like l in lazy
ł	łi	smoke	----------
m	mósí	cat	like m in mosquito
n	naadą́ą́'	corn	like n in new
s	sin	song	like s in soon
sh	shash	bear	like sh in shoe
t	tin	ice	----------
t'	t'eesh	charcoal	----------
tł	tłah	ointment	----------
tł'	tł'ízí	goat	----------
ts	tsah	needle	like ts in hats
ts'	ts'ah	sagebrush	----------
w	Wááshindoon	Washington,D.C.	like w in wash
y	yá	sky	like y in yes
z	zas	snow	like z in zero
zh	bízhi'	his name	like z in azure



gah naadą́ą́'

a aa

gah

a

naadą́ą́'

aa

a aa

2

ké ée'

e ee

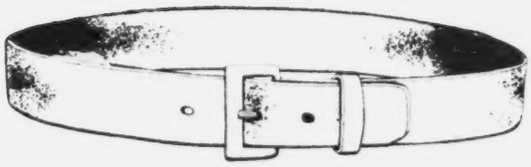
ké

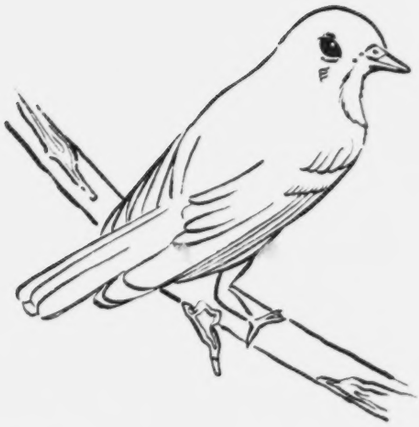
e

ée'

ee

e ee





sis tsídii

i ii

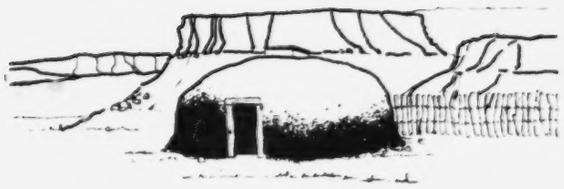
sis

i

tsídii

i ii

i ii



tó hooghan

o oo

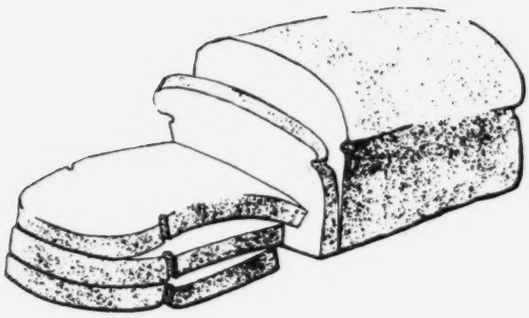
tó

o

hooghan

oo

o oo

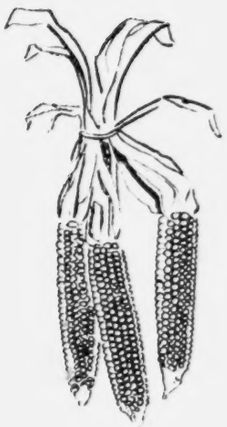


bááh	Baa'
aa	aa
baa	Baa
b	B

bááh Baa'

bááh

Baa'



naadą́ą́' hanáá'

naa náá'

Baa' bináá'

bináá'

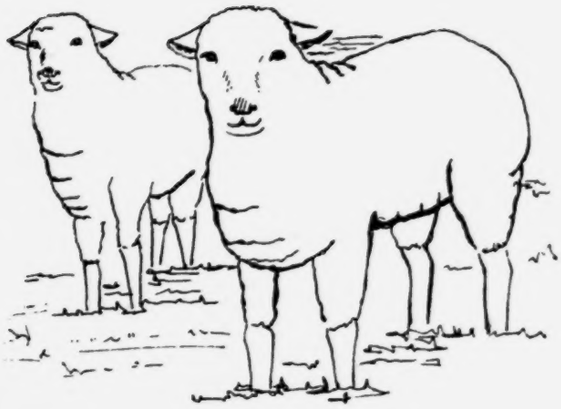
bi

naadą́ą́'

binaadą́ą́'

Baa' binaadą́ą́'

binaadą́ą́' bináá'



at'ééd dibé

ee e

át'é

at'ééd át'é.

Baa' át'é.

Baa' at'ééd át'é.

dibé át'é.

at'ééd bidibé át'é.

Baa' bidibé át'é.

ashkii łį́į́'

kii

ashkii át'é.

kii át'é.

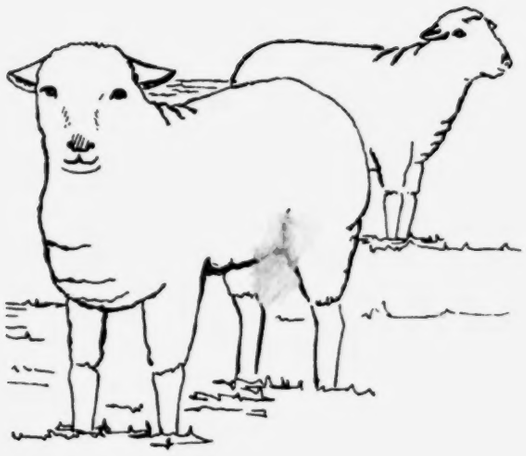
ashkii bilį́į́'.

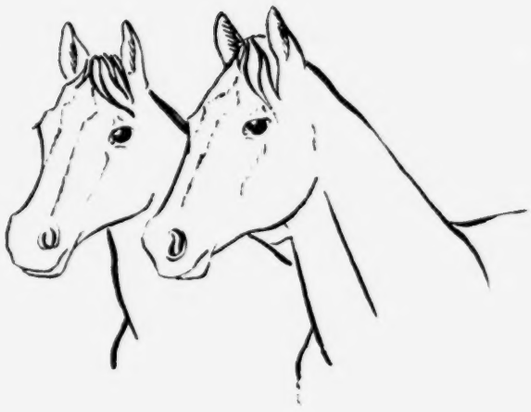
ashkii bilį́į́' át'é.

Kii bilį́į́' át'é.

ashkii łį́į́'

ii į́į́





dibé łį́į́'

Baa' bidibé át'é.

Kii bił́į́' át'é.

Baa' bidibé naaki.

Kii bił́į́' naaki.

naaki 2

2 naaki

ké níbaal

Baa' bikee' át'é.

Baa' biníbaal át'é.

ní

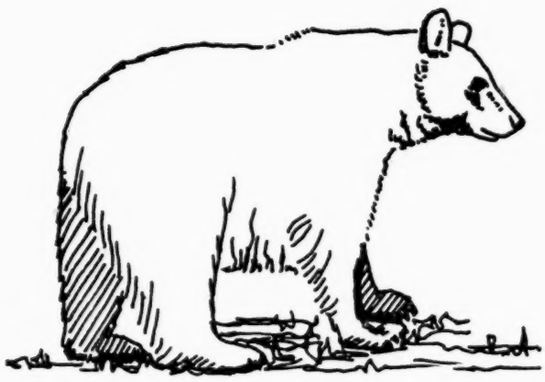
Baa' ání, shikee' át'é.

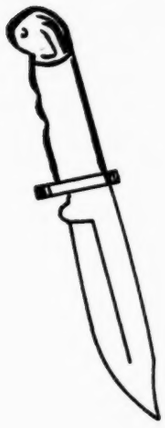
Kii ání, Baa' biníbaal

át'é.

Kii ání, Baa' bikee'

át'é, ní.





shash béésh

sh sh

shash

béésh

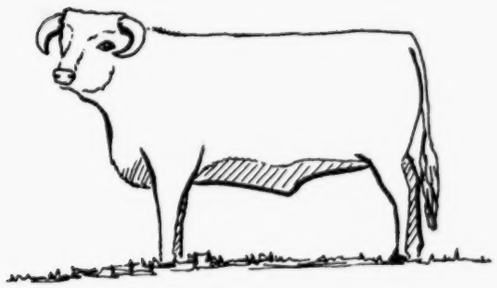
shashísh át'é?

aoo', shash át'é.

bééshísh át'é?

aoo', béésh át'é.

Kii bibéézh át'é.



dóola dághaa'

doo da

dooda

ɬį́į́'ísh át'é?

dooda, doo ɬį́į́' át'ée da.

shashísh at'é?

dooda, dóola át'é.

Kii bidághaa'ásh át'é?

doo Kii bidághaa' át'ée da.

shash ch'ah

sha

she

shi shich'ah

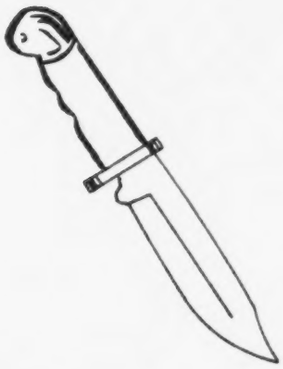
Kii ání, shich'ah át'é.

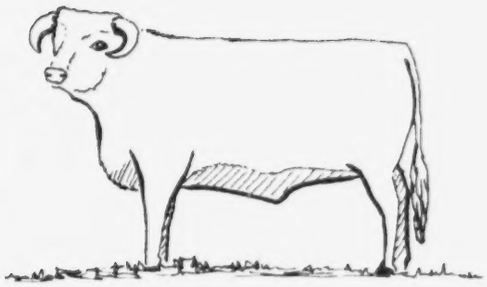
doo Baa' bich'ah

át'ée da.

shí shich'ah át'é,

ní Kii.





béésh dóola

béésh át'é.

háísh bibéézh át'é?

shibéézh át'é,, ní Kii.

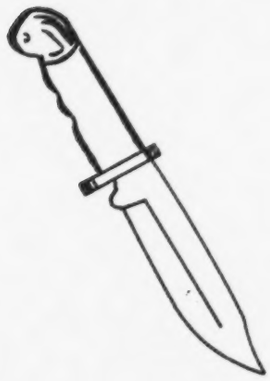
shí shibéézh át'é, ní.

háísh bidóola át'é?

Kii ání, shi dóola át'é.

shí shidóola át'é, ní.

Kii bibéézh dóó bidóola át'é.



názhahí Kii bibéézh

zh zh

zha ézh

háísh binázhahí át'é?

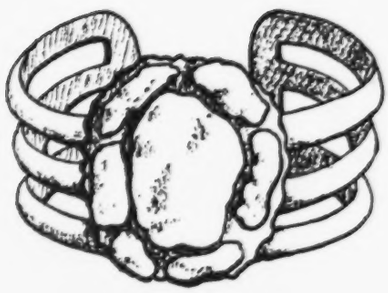
Baa' binázhahí át'é.

háísh bibéézh át'é?

Kii bibéézh át'é.

zh

sh zh



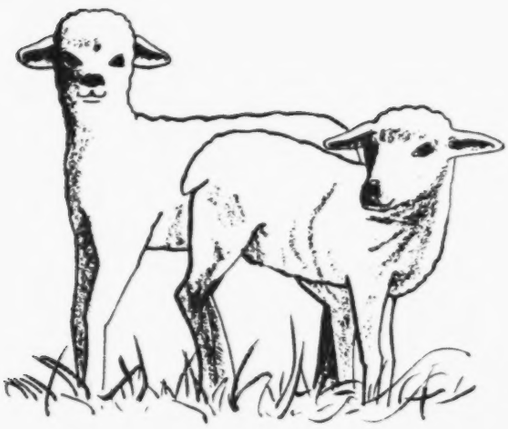
názhahí	látsíní
hí	lá
ha he	la le
hi ho	li lo
ho	lo

Baa' binázhahí hólǫ́.

Baa' bilátsíní holǫ́.

bilátsíníísh hólǫ́?

aoo', bilátsíní hólǫ́.



dibé yázhí at'éé yázhí

yázhí yázhí

at'éé yázhíísh bidibé hóló?

aoo', bidibé yázhí hóló.

nidibé yázhíísh hóló,

at'éé yázhí?

aoo', shidibé yázhí hóló.

shidibé yázhí naaki.

shí shidibé yázhí át'é.

béésh adee' adeezhí

dee dee

Kii bideezhí át'é.

bideezhí bibéésh ądee'

hólǫ́.

Baa' Kii bideezhí át'é.

Kii Baa' bínaaí át'é.

bínaaí

Baa' bínaaí hólǫ́.

azhé'é amá

Baa' bimá hólǫ́.

Kii bimá hólǫ́.

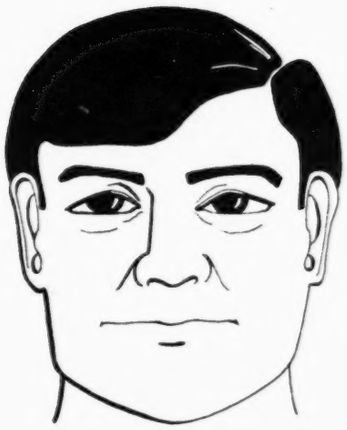
Baa' dóó Kii bimá hólǫ́.

Kii bizhé'é hólǫ́.

Baa' bizhé'é hólǫ́.

Kii dóó Baa' bizhé'é hólǫ́.

zhé má



Kii bizhé'é wóláchíí'

wol

chii

Kii bizhé'é át'é.

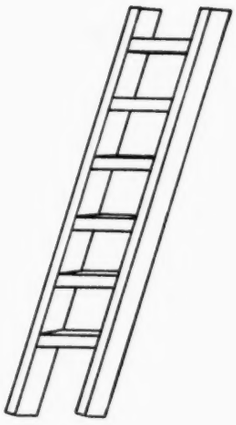
Bizhé'é Chii wolyé.

Baa' bizhé'é Chii wolyé.

wolyé

Kii dóó Baa' bizhé'é

Chii wolyé.



haaz'éí Haazbaa'

h H

haaz Haaz

Baa' bimá Haazbaa'

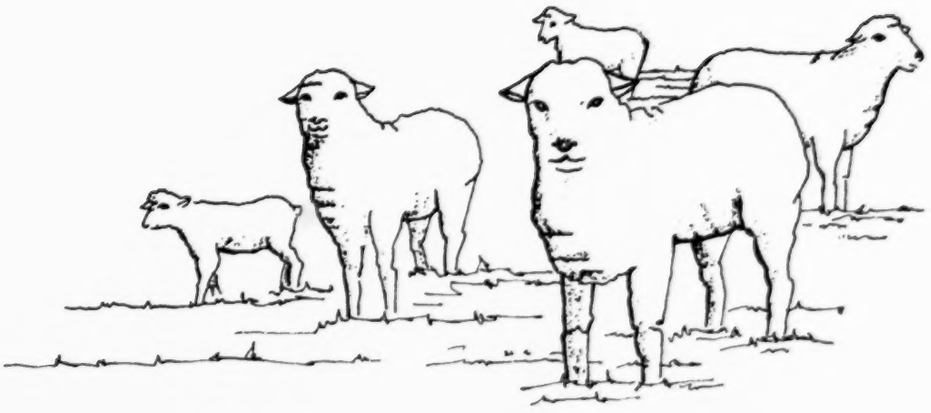
wolyé.

Kii bimá Haazbaa'

wolyé.

Baa' bimá dóó bizhé'é

Haazbaa' dóó Chii wolyé.



dibé naaki dibé tá́á'

ashdla'

Chii bidibé naaki.

Haazbaa' bidibé tá́á'.

Chii dóó Haazbaa'

bidibé dahólǫ́.

bidibé ashdla'.

tá́á' 3

ashdla' 5

ɬį́į́' ɬóó'

ɬi ɬo

ɬa ɬe

Chii bilį́į́' ɬa' hólǫ́.

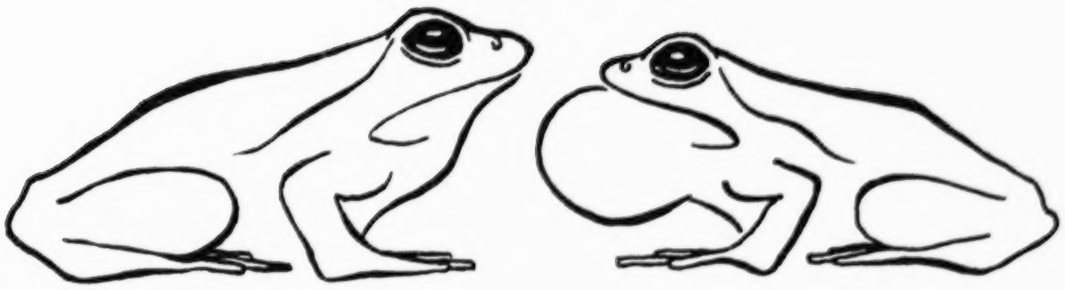
Chii bilį́į́' t'ááɬa'í.

ɬa

ɬóó' t'ááɬá'í

t'áá

t'ááɬá'í 1



ch'aɬ ch'aɬ áníní

ch'a ch'a

ch'aɬ át'é.

ɬa' ch'aɬ wolyé.

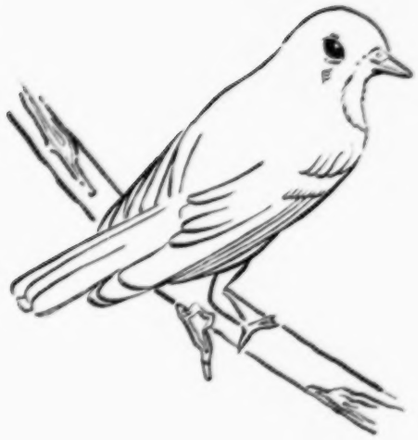
éí doo ánía da.

ɬa' éí ání.

éí ch'aɬ áníní wolyé.

t'áá t'óó

ch'aɬ áníní t'óó ání.



tsídii dlǫ́ǫ́'

dii

díí tsídii wolyé.

tsídii ání.

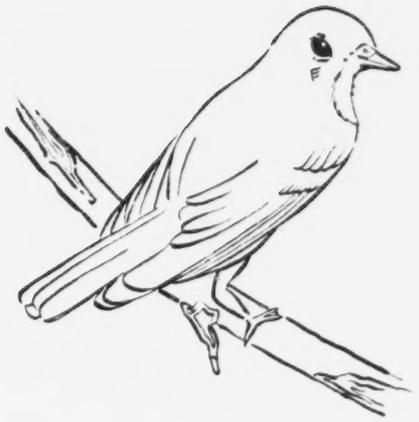
díí dlǫ́ǫ́' wolyé.

dlǫ́ǫ́' ałdó' ání.

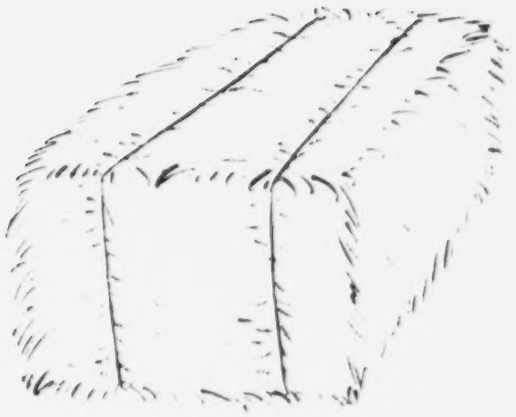
ałdó'

dó'

dlǫ́ǫ́' dó' ání.



tsídii	dį́į́'
dii	dį́į́
dį́į́	dą́ą́
ii	į́į́
ii	ą́ą́
ą́ą́'	ǫ́ǫ́'
aa	ąą
ee	ęę
oo	ǫǫ



tɬ'ízí tɬ'oh

tɬ'í tɬ'o

díí tɬ'ízí át'é.

díí tɬ'oh át'e.

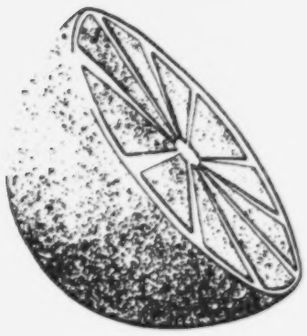
tɬ'ízí dóó tɬ'oh át'é.

tɬ'ízí tɬ'oh yiłchozh.

tɬ'ízí tɬ'oh biɬ łikan.

ɬį́į́' tɬ'oh yiłchozh.

ɬį́į́' tɬ'oh biɬ łikan.



łitsxooí ashkii

tsxo

ashkii łitsxooí yiyą́.

łitsxooí bił łikan.

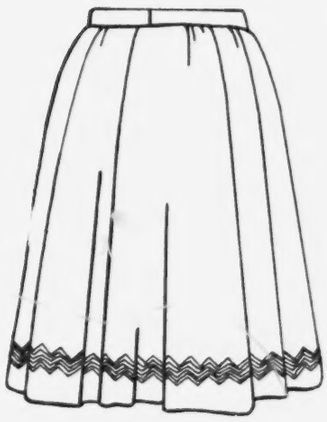
łitsxooí éí łitsxo.

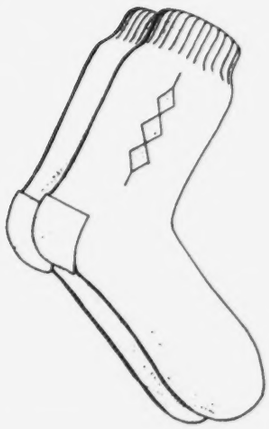
ashiiké yázhí łitsxooí

íiyisí bił daalkan.

áłchíní yázhí łitsxooí

íiyisí bił daalkan.





tɬ'aakaɬ yistɬé

tɬ'a tɬe

tɬ' tɬ

háísh bitɬ'aakaɬ át'é?

Baa' bimá bitɬ'aakaɬ

át'é.

hái bistɬé át'é?

Kii bistɬé át'é.

Kii bistɬé naaki.

amásáɳí acheii

Baa' bimásání dóó

bicheii hólǫ́.

Díí Baa' bimásání át'é.

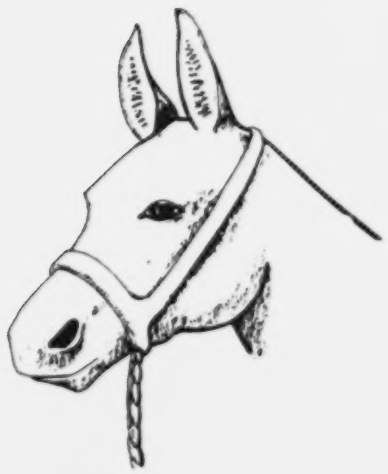
bicheii biɬ yá'át'ééh.

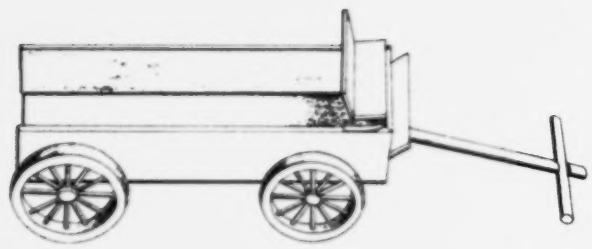
shicheii shiɬ yá'át'ééh,

ní Baa'.

shimásání aɬdó' shiɬ

yá'át'éeh.





dzaanéézˊ tsinaabąąs

Baa' bicheii bidzaanéézˊ

hólǫ́.

dzaanéézˊ bijaa' nineez,

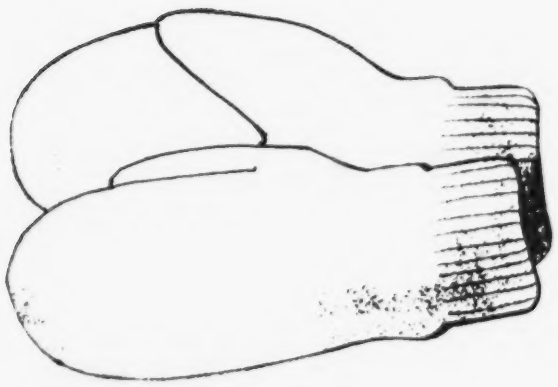
ní Baa'.

shicheii bitsinaabąąs

hólǫ́, ní Kii.

shimáśáníˊ dzaanéézˊ doo

biłˊ yá'át'éeh da.



jaatl'ǿǿl lájish

Baa' ání, shimásání

bijaatł'ǿǿl hólǫ́.

Bijaatł'ǿǿl shił nizhóní.

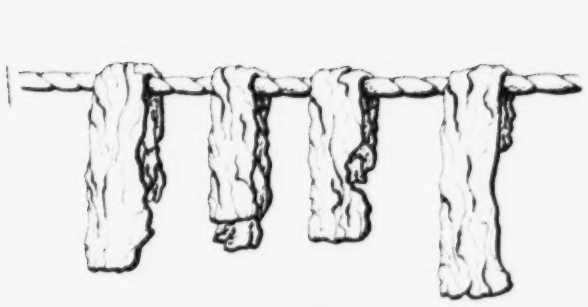
shimásání bilájish

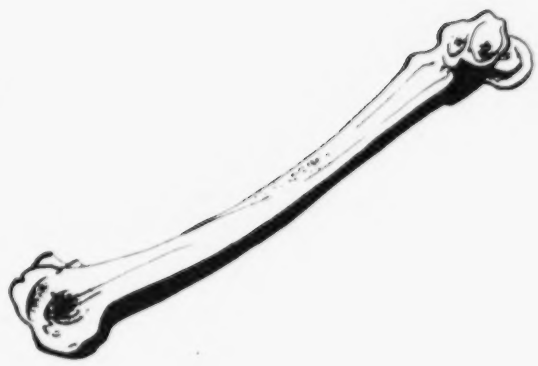
ałdǿ' hólǫ́.

bilájish ałdǿ' nizhóní.

lájish ajaa'

ji jo je ja





atsį' ts'in

Kii dibé bitsį' bił łikan.

ts'in doo bił łikan da.

dibé bitsį'ísh nił łikan,

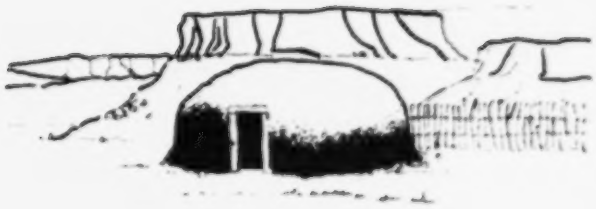
Baa', ní Kii.

aoo', éí shił łikan. ni

daats'í ts'in nił łikan?

dooda, ts'in doo shił

łikan da.



hooghan

k'aa'

k'a

k'ad

Baa' bimásání k'ad

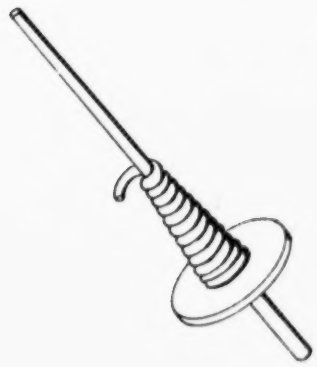
ńléidi baghan.

kwe'é baghan ńt'éé'

ndi k'ad ńléidi baghan.

bimá k'ad t'áá kwe'é baghan.

bima ńléidi baghan ńt'éé'.



amásání bee'adizí

adiz

Baa' bimásání adiz.

adizgo ch'ééh deeyá.

hwáah, ní.

Baa' aɬdó' hwáah, ni.

doo adiz da ndi.

t'óó ch'ééh deeyá.

hwáah hwiih

GLOSSARY

The numbers between the words and definitions indicate the page on which the word is introduced.

NEW WORD	PAGE	DEFINITION
acheii	31	a maternal grandfather
adiz	34	she is spinning (wool)
adizgo	35	she spinning (wool)
ajaa'	31	an ear
aɬdó'	25	also, too
amá	19	a mother
amásání	31	a maternal grandmother
ání	11	he, she, it says
ánínígo	24	the one who says
aoo'	11	yes
ashdla'	22	five
ashkii	8	boy
át'é	7	he, she, it is
at'éédg	7	girl
atsį'	34	meat, flesh
azhé'é	19	a father
Baa'	5	Bah, feminine name
bááh	5	bread
baghan	34	his, her, its home
bee'adizí	35	spindle
béésh	11	knife
béésh adee'	18	spoon
bibéézh	11	his knife
bibéésh adee'	18	her spoon
bicheii	31	his, her maternal grandfather
bich'ah·	13	his hat
bidághaa'	12	his moustache
bideezhí	18	his younger sister
bidibé	7	her sheep
bidzaanéézz	31	his mule
bijaa'	31	his ear
bijaatɬ'óól	32	his ear string
bikee'	10	his, her shoes

bilájish	32	his, her gloves
biɬ	27	with him, her, it
bilátsíní	16	her bracelet
bilį́į́'	8	his horse
bimá	19	his, her mother
bimásání	31	his, her maternal grandmother
binää'	6	his, her, its eyes
binaadą́ą́'	6	his corn
bínaaí	18	his, her older brother
binázhahí	15	his, her necklace
biníbaal	10	his, her tent
bistɬé	29	his, her socks
bitɬ'aakaɬ	29	her skirt
bitsį'	33	his, her, its flesh
bitsinaabąąs	31	his wagon
bizhé'é	19	his, her father
ch'ah	13	hat, headgear
ch'aɬ	24	frog
ch'ééh	35	in vain, futilely
Chii	20	Chee, masculine name
ɖaats'í	34	maybe
ɖaalkan	28	they are good to the taste
ɖághaa'	12	moustache
ɖahólǫ́	22	they exist
ɖeeyá	34	he, she is going
ɖibé	7	sheep
ɖíí	25	this, these
ɖlǫ́ǫ́'	25	prairie dog
ɖó'	25	also, too
ɖóó	14	and
ɖooda	12	no
ɖoo...da	12	not
ɖóola	12	bull
ɖzaanéézz	31	mule
éé'	2	garment
éí	24	that one

gah	1	rabbit
Haazbaa'	20	Hasbah, feminine name
haaz'éí	20	ladder
háí	29	who, which
háísh	14	who, which
hanáá'	6	his, her eyes
hóló	16	he, she, it exists
hooghan	4	hogan, home
hwááh	35	phew!
hwiih	35	satisfied
íiyisí	28	really
jaatł'óól	32	ear string
k'aa'	34	arrow
k'ad	34	now
ké	2	shoe
Kii	8	Kee, masculine name
kwe'é	34	here
ła'	23	a, one, some
lájish	32	glove, mitten
látsíní	16	bracelet
łį́į́'	8	horse
łikan	27	it is good to the taste
łitso	28	yellow, nickel
łitsxooí	28	orange
łóó'	23	fish
naadą́ą́'	1	corn
naaki	9	two
názhahí	15	necklace
ndi	35	but, even
ní	10	he, she, it says
níbaal	10	tent, tarp
nił	33	with you
nizhóní	32	she, it is pretty
ńléidi	34	over there

shash	11	bear
shí	13	I
shibéézh	14	my knife
shich'ah	13	my hat
shił	32	with me
shimá yázhí	32	my maternal aunt
sis	3	belt
táá'	22	three
t'áá	23	just
t'ááłá'í	23	one
tł'aakał	29	skirt
tł'ízí	27	goat
tł'oh	27	hay
tó	4	water
t'óó	24	merely
tsídii	3	bird
ts'in	33	bone
tsinaabąąs	31	wagon
wóláchíí'	20	red ant
wolyé	20	he, she, it is called
yázhí	17	the little one
yá'át'ééh	30	it is good
yiłchozh	27	it is eating, grazing
yistłé	29	socks
yiyą	28	he, she, it is eating it